

CITY OF NEWTON  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 2008

Present: David Koses (Chairman), Nina Wang (Traffic Engineer), Ald. Danberg, Sgt. Norcross (Police), Jerome Grafe (Resident member), Rosalie Myers (Clerk).

Also Present: Ald. Harney, Ald. Sangiolo

#TC49-08      ALD. LENNON of behalf of Diane Cotting requesting the installation of two stop signs eastbound and westbound on Waban Street at Hovey Street. (Ward 1)

**ACTION:**      NAN 4-0-1 (Koses abstaining)

**NOTE:**      Diane Cotting told the Committee that the street was used as a cut through and the three automobile dealerships in the immediate area cause problems. She said that she would like to see cars slow down.

Nina Wang, Assistant Traffic Engineer, explained that her examination of the intersection of Waban Street & Hovey Street she found that there were no reported accidents in the past three years, site lines are adequate and traffic volume is light. The stop compliance rate at the stop sign at the end of Hovey Street is fairly good. The state multi-stop sign warrants are not met, and the right of way is clearly defined. Ms. Wang's recommendation was to keep the stop sign on Hovey Street at Waban and not add more stop signs on Waban Street.

Ald. Danberg moved the Committee vote No Action Necessary.

#TC45-08      ALD. SANGIOLO requesting that the existing provisions of **TPR-176. Parking regulations pertaining to particular streets.**, re Woodland Road be modified as follows:

(A)      Woodland Road, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., both sides from Central Street to Hancock Street

(B)      Woodland Road, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., from Hancock Street to Grove Street.

(C)      Woodland Road, all days, both sides from Grove Street to Washington Street. (Ward 4) [4-29-08 @7:12PM]

**ACTION:**      **PART (A) NAN 5-0;**  
**PART (B) APPROVED as Amended 5-0, no parking 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, south side of Woodland Road between Hancock Street and Grove Street;**  
**PART (C) Approve as Amended 3-1-1, Grafe against and Wang abstaining. No parking at any time north side of Woodland Road between Grove Street and Windermere Road.**

**NOTE:** Ald. Sangiolo said that the church has various meetings where attendees park on Woodland Road, and that during rush hour cars that park on Woodland Road impedes the flow of traffic. Ald. Sangiolo would like to remove the current restrictions and replace with appropriate changes. There used to be “no parking” signs on the north side of Woodland Road near Lasell College, but they were removed.

Field observations made by Ms. Wang indicated there are some parking restrictions on the street on the south side of Woodland Road. There appears to be little demand for on-street parking on much of Woodland Road. It was observed that there is some parking that occurs near the church at the corner of Hancock Street and Woodland.

Traffic Council members agreed that there should be no parking on the south side of Woodland Road between Hancock Street and Grove Street between 2:30 to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday to help improve traffic flow. The majority of Traffic Council members also favored a full parking restriction on the north side of Woodland Road between Grove Street and Windermere due to the narrow width of the street.

#TC47-08 CARIE MICHAEL et al. petition pursuant to ordinance section 19-201 for resident sticker parking on the block of WINDERMERE ROAD, Ward 4, between Woodland Road and Commonwealth Avenue. (Ward 4) [5-16-08 @ 10 AM]

**ACTION:** NAN 5-0

**NOTE :** Mr. Koses reported that he had received a hand-delivered request for withdrawal of this request. The letter stated that the situation on Windermere Road has improved dramatically since May. Lasell College has a new policy that forbids first year students from bringing cars to campus, and has responded quickly to student vehicles parked on Windermere Road. Very few cars are now parked on Windermere Road and there is agreement by residents that the situation has improved and would like to withdraw docket item #TC47-08.

#TC52-08 JAMES A. MILLER et al. requesting a two-hour parking restriction on both sides of Bourne Street, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., excluding Saturdays and Sundays. (Ward 4.)

**ACTION:** DENIED 5-0

**NOTE:** Mr. Miller said he has lived at 67 Bourne Street for 44 years. He said that Bourne Street is narrow and has approximately 20 curb cuts. In the last several years, he has observed an increased number of all-day parkers. He noted that surrounding streets have instituted parking restrictions. The street has new condos as well as rental units which causes parking problems. What Mr. Miller is asking for is a parking restriction prohibiting parking between 9 and 6 pm on

work days. This would, in his opinion, discourage all day parkers. He mentioned that the petition was noticed from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., but what they had actually been requested was a restriction between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Wang has noted that some cars park on the street and many of the cars seem to belong to residents. There are no major business or commercial interests using long term parking in the vicinity. The street, she said, is a dead-end and carries no through traffic. Her recommendation was not to add parking restrictions on both sides of the street.

A resident of 86 Bourne Street said that she feels it is often more convenient to park outside of her house rather than in the back. She noted that one house has four cars and the resident has to park on the street due to necessity. She felt that a good number of the cars parking on the street are residents.

Residents of 62 Bourne Street stated that they have experienced difficulty when non-resident cars are parked in front of their house.

Sgt. Norcross said that a 2-hour parking regulation is very labor-intensive for the police to enforce. He suggested considering a 7 to 9 or 7 to 10 no parking and then have the parking open for the rest of the day. In his opinion that would address the commuter parking. It is less intrusive on the neighborhood and easier for the Police to enforce. Ald. Danberg also suggested a less restrictive approach to parking. Ald. Harney noted that everyone on the street is not in agreement.

David Koses noted Traffic Council should not necessarily support restrictions that discourage the use of public transit. Furthermore, there are more convenient available spaces for commuters to park to access the Auburndale Commuter Rail Station than Bourne Street. In any event, it has not been established that many commuters even park on Bourne Street, and on many days the street appears to be lightly parked. Public testimony seems to indicate that much of the on-street parking is from local residents. Mr. Koses did not support instituting a restriction that would inconvenience residents. However, Mr. Koses noted that if residents disagree with the decision of Traffic Council, there is an opportunity to appeal the decision. If an appeal were to move forward, the petition would automatically be placed on the Public Safety and Transportation Committee docket.

The Committee voted 5-0 to deny.

#TC48-08      ALD. SANGIOLO requesting parking prohibitions on portions of Evergreen Street, and Oakland Avenue, Auburndale. (Ward 4).

**ACTION:**     **NAN 5-0** No parking zone to be established on a small section of Oakland Avenue near the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue, no parking zone to be established on a small section of Evergreen Street near intersection of Auburn Street.

**NOTE:**       Nina Wang told the Committee that her observations showed that the gas station on the corner of Auburn/Commonwealth Avenue is under construction and that neither Evergreen nor Oakland carries much cut-through traffic. The width of the streets is wide enough to take allow on-street parking. Any future parking problems can be dealt with after the gas station is in business.

The Committee voted to NAN this item, but to place a no parking restriction near the intersection of Oakland & Commonwealth, and near the intersection of Evergreen & Auburn, to facilitate right hand turns off of Commonwealth Avenue and off of Auburn Street.

(33-02)       #TC50-08     ALD. SANGIOLO requesting that the Traffic Council approve and submit to Mass Highway a truck exclusion on Grove Street. (Ward 4)

**ACTION:**     **NAN 3-0-2 (Danberg, Grafe abstaining)**

**NOTE:**       The signs in this area have been taken down because the state never approved them. Traffic Engineer Clint Schuckel said that the restrictions were never approved by the state, and that truck exclusion signs could not be posted.

Ald. Sangiolo questioned whether a commercial vehicle restriction could be put in place on Grove Street between Route 128 and Washington Street. She requested that that truck exclusion signs be reposted. Ms. Wang responded that this would require state approval. Ms. Wang said that the volume of commercial vehicle traffic does not meet the warrants. While the total commercial vehicle traffic was only measured to be 0.6% of all traffic, the state requires that at least 5% of the total traffic volume be commercial vehicle traffic in order for the street to be considered for a truck exclusion. There is also a distance requirement that this small section of Grove Street does not meet. Ms. Wang also mentioned that a nighttime truck exclusion will have no impact to the street since no trucks went through the street during night time.

Sgt. Norcross said that if a landscaper or a UPS truck needed to come to that area, they would still be able to use the road.

All Traffic Council members thought that trucks should be encouraged to use the alternative route (the 128 ramps) to travel between Grove Street and Washington Street, but understood that the state would not grant a truck exclusion to a street with such a low percentage of commercial vehicle traffic. David Koses

mentioned that if raised intersections are eventually constructed on this section of Grove Street, they would be a disincentive for truck traffic to continue to use this section of Grove Street.

The Committee voted No Action Necessary.

#TC51-08      DAVID KOSES requesting a discussion re pedestrian difficulties crossing Washington Street westbound at the merge with Park Street, east of the Centre Street bridge in Newton Corner. (Ward 1.)

**ACTION:**      **NAN 5-0 . A pedestrian sign will be erected above the “Right Turn on Red after Stop” sign.**

**NOTE:**      Chairman Koses said this area appears to be a hazard for pedestrians and he felt that removing the sign that says “Right Turn on Red after Stop” and replacing it with “No Turn on Red” would be an improvement. Mr. Grafe felt that the lights seem to be in conflict, putting the pedestrian at a disadvantage, diminishing the value of the walk light.

Sgt. Norcross questioned if a pedestrian count was done at this location. On site visits, Ms. Wang did not see any pedestrians. Sgt. Norcross asked what the queue of the traffic would be if the light were taken out. Ms. Wang had looked into that and found that during the peak hour, approximately 1,000 cars went through this location. If this were changed, in her opinion, there would be a problem with the queue. She added that during the rush hour there would be a long line.

David Koses explained that when you are trying to cross with a stroller and cars aren't stopping even though they have a red light and there is a walk sign, then there is a problem.

Sgt. Norcross felt that Ms. Wang made a valid point when she said that the sign is a gentle reminder to people and it seems to have some effect. He didn't feel that taking the sign down is the answer. The Committee agreed that adding a pedestrian sign would be helpful. Chairman Koses and Jerome Grafe supported continued discussion about how to best improve safety for pedestrians trying to cross this intersection.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Koses, Chairman